

11.9 Million Dollars OK'd for Schools

Inside the Press

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TORRANCE PRESS

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VOLUME XII, NUMBER 19

THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1960

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City Taxable Sales Reach All-Time High

A report just issued by the State Board of Equalization showed Torrance Taxable Retail Sales reached an all-time high of \$33,603,000 for the fourth quarter of 1959, according to an announcement today by the Torrance Chamber of Commerce Statistical Department.

This figure was a whopping 12,500,000 higher than the corresponding period in 1958 and \$16,000,000 over the 1957 figure.

The total 12 months taxable sales for 1959 was \$99,858,000, which means that the city received \$998,580 from the 1% of the sales tax. "This is only the start," said J. H. Paget, chamber president, who predicted at least a \$10,000,000 increase for 1960. The 1959 figure was \$30,000,000 over 1958 and \$31,000,000 over 1957 figures.

Cities passed by Torrance's retail "surge" were Culver City, Huntington Park, Lakewood, Compton, Alhambra, Downey, Richmond, South Gate, Pomona and Modesto.

Torrance now ranks 9th in Los Angeles County compared to a ranking of 18th in 1958. Statewide, the jump was from 36th to 25th.

Council Approves Staffs' Addition of 37 Employees

It was decided at the City Council special budget meeting Monday night that 37 employees will be hired by the city for services to the public.

Additions to the staff of employees of Torrance for the 1960-61 year will include four firemen, three recreational supervisors, and seven police officers, two of which will be added to the records office.

One employee will be added to the city's finance department, while two custodians will be subtracted from the maintenance department of the city hall. An employee will be added to the central services staff of the city.

Originally, an addition of 16 members to the fire department was recommended by Fire Chief Jake Benner. George W. Stevens, city manager, recommended eight of the 16.

In discussion about the cut in proposed additions, Councilman Nicholas O. Drale questioned, "The fire department hasn't added any buildings or equipment, and fire losses are down, where are the deficiencies?"

Answering the question, Stevens said, "It is purely a matter of catching up. I think by all standards, the fire department is under-manned. We are fortunate that we have not had any major fires."

"I don't think the city should buy expensive equipment if it is not used," added Drale, after mentioning fire equipment which, after its purchase a year ago, has never been used.

"A fire department is like an army, it must be prepared," replied Stevens. The three recreational supervisors were added for the programming of the three parks opening in Torrance. There will be no increase in services offered per park.

Of the 90 man increase requested by combined departments, the city manager cut requests to 47 men, and the council accepted the hiring of 37 additional employees, cutting the manager's proposal by 10.

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HIS MAJESTY Bhumibol Adulyadej, King of Thailand (left) discusses forthcoming tour of the Torrance Mobil Oil Plant with Mayor Albert Isen (right) and R. E. Lauterbach of the company. The king and his party of Thai officials toured the refinery last week.

Petrat Gels New Position

R. K. Petratt, principal of Steele Elementary School for the past five years, will become a Torrance Schools' Personnel consultant on July 1, under action taken Tuesday night by the Board of Education.

The 34-year-old educator will deal with hiring and various problems of the personnel department, according to Director Robert Morton. His successor at Steele this summer will be Vice Principal John Kasser.

A former Hermosa Beach teacher, Petratt has served in Torrance nine years, teaching at Perry and El Nido schools and serving as vice principal at El Nido. He was the first principal at Steele when it opened in 1955.

A Los Angeles native, he graduated from Washington High School and Pepperdine College. He has a master's degree from USC.

Child's Game

Anxious Autos Cause Problems at Intersection

Red light . . . green light . . . red light . . . But nobody moves. At the intersection of Hawthorne Blvd. and 174th St. at about 5 p.m., autos with men anxious to return home after a day's labor have to stop to play a game, red light-green light.

At this intersection, cars too anxious to turn left onto 174th tend to make passage impossible as they pull out in front of through traffic and left hand turners from the other direction.

Result . . . there is two lines of cars, each blocking the progress of the other. Solution . . . Either get Sheriff John to direct the game or install a left hand turn light.

Where'd They Go? Homing Pigeons Take Overnight Journey

Ever hear of a homing pigeon who didn't stay home? Well, E. F. Kelley, a Torrance pigeon raiser, has been faced with the problem when, last week, he discovered seven birds missing from his loft.

However, all was well when, the following day, all birds returned home after an overnight stay.

Kelley, member of the California State Racing Pigeon Organization and the American Racing Pigeon Union, said the seven birds were valued at a total of \$200. Six of them were young birds, never out of the loft except for exercise, and the seventh was a "good bird who has flown in a race from Reddings to Torrance," he said.

The bird raiser mentioned that he was a bit suspicious when the birds returned with leg bands missing. Also, he stated that the birds, or something, certainly did a lot of ripping at the loft to make way for the escape.

"These birds are pure-blooded American Racing Pigeons with registered pedi-

grees, he said. The American Racing Pigeon Union has licensed this loft as "an important and valuable element of the defense resources of the United States."

"My pigeons are protected by the State Fish and Game law. Also, they are registered with the army, National Guard, local police, and Civil Defense," Kelley said.

He is a member of the Harbor Area Racing Pigeon Club and the Los Angeles Racing Pigeon Combine. He has been racing the birds for over 25 years and has won "lots of diplomas." A diploma is the award given to the winner of a pigeon race.

When the birds are raced, they are taken to a starting point, usually several hundred miles away, and released. They carry tools that, upon arrival home, are inserted in a timer. This stops the clock and the birds are timed.

Kelley continued, saying that he wanted to make the public aware of the value of these birds, the personal value and the value to the national defense.

Torrance Summer Student Enrollment at New High

Nearly 9000 youngsters—representing more than one-third of the regular school enrollment—have enrolled in Torrance summer school programs, according to Mrs. Trudy Aldershof, director.

Summer scholars included 6495 elementary students and 2475 high schoolers. Enrollment Tuesday rose about 275 over the Monday figures. First day enrollments were up 20% over the same day a year ago. An increasing interest in high school sum-

mer courses was indicated by an increase of more than 60% over last year. Expanded programs for students, especially eighth graders, are featured.

Torrance's summer school program is considered an extension of the regular school year, with classes for all students, bright, average and slow.

South High enrolled 1069 students, while North High had 1009 and Torrance High 397.

City Employees Gain 3% Monthly Salary Increase

Police Officer Protests, Asks for Later Hearing

All city employees will receive a 3% wage increase, it was decided at the Tuesday City Council meeting. This decision retracted the former decision made by the group Monday to grant the employees a flat \$20 raise.

At the close of the session, Charles Oates, policeman and spokesman for the Torrance Council of United Employees, said, "I would like to thank you for the wage increase, however, I feel it is inadequate. I feel it is not enough for our dedicated services to the city throughout the years."

He continued, "The money is available this year; we have been denied the raise because the money wasn't available in the past."

In the audience of employees and wives, murmurs were heard to the effect, "from a \$20 raise to a \$16 raise."

Oates, however, agreed that "It should be that our supervisors and men in higher positions receive

greater increases than us, but this increase is not enough." Monday night at the special budget meeting, a two and a half equalizing increase was passed to attempt to bring the city employee wages up to standard of neighboring cities.

Oates said this, combined with the 3% raise, was a "direct slap in the face." "It," he said, "put the city employees even farther behind."

In closing, the policeman asked for the opportunity to come before the council in August when exact amount of funds available is known.

Monday night, in opposition to the percentage raise, Councilman Nicholas O. Drale said, "I don't want any more percentage raises, they cost the city too much and the wrong people get the money." He continued, citing as an example, the fact that with the percentage system, workers in the lower pay brackets receive a much smaller increase than those being paid more.

Board Approves Record Budget

An \$11.9 million budget for the 1960-61 school year was approved tentatively by the Torrance Board of Education Tuesday night. The final budget will be adopted in August after assessed valuation figures are released and the district's income will be known.

The money will be used to provide schools and teachers next year for some 27,000 students, an increase of about 2000 over this year.

Reasons for an increase of about \$1.4 million over last year's budget are the enrollment increase, inflation, higher maintenance costs as buildings get older, and salary increases for employees, according to Assistant Superintendent S. E. Waldrip.

The district will have additional financing problems

next year because local taxes The district is currently at its tax ceiling as far as direct educational expenses are concerned. However, the board discussed the possibility levying a 10-cent "community service" tax, authorized under the law. Noting that the schools had been used last year by more than 300,000 persons for non-school events, the board considered the possibility of levying this tax.

must provide 56 per cent of the total budget, compared with 51 per cent this year. Under state law, state support decreases as the total volume of local support increases. Because of the financial problems, the board has called an override tax election this October, seeking more funds for educational expense.



CRASH VICTIM Miles Minick, 37, of Inglewood ran through barricades and struck a crane at 223rd St. and Grace Ave. in Torrance yesterday at 2:40 a. m. Minick was taken to Harbor General Hospital for treatment of chest injuries. —Photo by Tomaskovich

Camino Opens Sports Classes

Adult recreation facilities which will be open to the public on week-days until Aug. 26 were outlined today by Merl F. Sloan, director of student personnel at El Camino College.

Tennis classes will be conducted on Monday and Wednesday evenings from 7 to 8 p.m. Beginners in trampoline will receive instruction from 6 to 7 p.m. on Monday and Wednesday evenings.

Badminton will be featured from 6 to 8 p.m. on Tuesday and Thursday evenings, and volleyball Wednesday from 6 to 10 p.m.

Computed Times Determine First in Powder Derby

"Winners cannot be determined until all airplanes have finished the race and their times computed. The first airplane to cross the finish line is not necessarily the winner," said Mrs. Betty H. Gilles, eight-time consecutive Powder Puff Derby chairman and World War II WASP commander. She will head the 1960 derby to begin July 9 from Torrance Airport.

A "par speed" handicap in knots is established for each make and model of airplane eligible to race. The winner is the pilot of that airplane which averages the highest ground speed in relation to its "par speed."

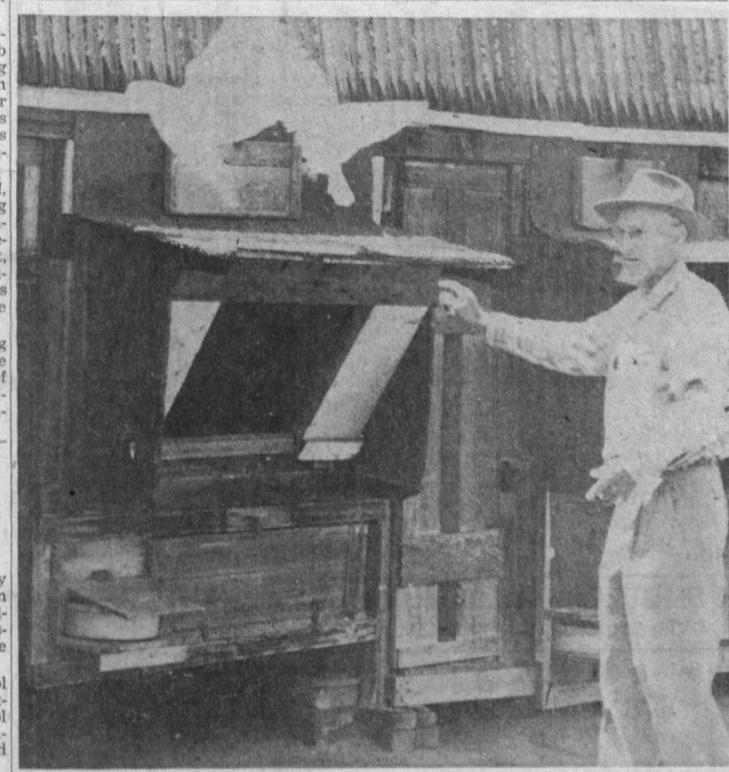
The nine-state race course follows a long, gentle curve from Torrance to Needles, Calif.; Prescott, Ariz.; Winslow, Ariz.; Oklahoma City; Fort Smith, Ark.; Memphis; Chattanooga; Johnson City, Tenn.; Roanoke, and on to the finish line at Wilmington.

"The \$2½-million race (each airplane costs between \$9000 and \$29,000, plus operating expenses for single and multi-engine stock airplanes from 85 to 350 horsepower no more than 10 years old, and will be flown during daylight hours," explains Mrs. Gilles, "sunrise to sunset, under Federal Aviation Agency visual rules. Instrument flying is prohibited."

Pilots Meet Rules
 Pilots must hold an airman's certificate of private grade or higher with a minimum of 100 hours solo time, including 50 hours cross-country experience, to enter.

Officials present at each airport will use electric time stamps to record arrival and departure times in contestants' log books.

A purse of \$2500 will go to the five top winners, the pilots and co-pilots each receiving trophies as well. Additional awards will be given for the best scores made by each class of airplane, for the best scores on each leg of the race and for other special categories.



STOP, YOU BIRDS—And away they go for another overnight stay. E. F. Kelley, Torrance racing pigeon raiser, faces the prob-

lem of disappearing pets. Only last week he lost seven valuable homing pigeons, which, fortunately, returned after an overnight stay.